completed. The other sewage treatment plant is targeted for completion by June 1999. An amount of Rs. 10.92 crore has been spent on these schemes so far. In addition, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi under its own plan is constructing 13 sewage treatment plants with appurtenant works at an approved cost of Rs. 469.67 crore. Of these, five sewage treatment plants have already been commissioned, another seven are targeted for completion by December 1999 and the remaining one is targeted for completion by June 2000. So, far, an expenditure of about Rs. 329 crore has been incurred on these works by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Allotment of Forests Land at Sabarimala

1876. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS Be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from Kerala Government for permission to allot forest land for expansion . of facilities to pilgrims at Sabarimala, Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in granting permission; and

(c) whether Governemnt are aware of recent tragedy at Sabarimala in which many people died?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The State Government of Kerala had earlier in 1993 submitted a proposal under the Forest (Conservation) Act. 1980 for diversion of 115.60 hectares of forest land in District Pathanamthitta for providing amenities to pilgrims of Sabarimala Temple. The proposed forest area formed part of Periyer Tiger Reserve. While the proposal was under process, the State Government in December, 1995 forwarded another proposal involving 20 hectares of forest land for the same purpose. The proposal was examined by the Ministry and also discussed with Nodal Officer, State Forest Department, Kerala, in May 1996. As per the discussion held with the Nodal officer, certain suggestions were made for the consideration of the kerala State Government so as to minimise any adverse environmental effect of the development activity in the area. The State Government was reminded on 9.5.97 and again on 15.9.98 to expedite the clarifications sought by the Ministry in pursuance to the discussions held with the Nodal Officer. The reply of the State Government has not been received so far. Subsequently, August, 1997, three separate proposals have been received pertaining to construction of sewage treatment plant at Cheriyanavattom near Sabarimala shrine; collection of sand have already been approved by this Ministry on 26.11.98 and 23.10.97 respectively. The proposal for quarrying of rubble was discussed in the State level Advisory Group meeting on 8.10.97 and it was decided to obtain certain details from the State Government as the proposal was not formulated properly and the project was located in the forest area earmarked for Project Elephant. Despite repeated reminders, the State Government did not furnish the requisite information and proposal was again discussed in the meeting of State Advisory Group on 15.10.98 and it was decided to close the proposal for want of essential details.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, in the absence of complete details, as mentioned above from the State Government of Kerala it would not be possible to take a final decision on the proposal.

Project pending for environment clearance

1877. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) What is the number of projects pending for environment clearance at present and since when these are pending;